Appl.No. 10/596,801

Amdt.dated October 16, 2008

Reply to Office action of April 16, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 6 has been amended to removed the numeral included.

Claims 1 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claim 1 has been amended to remove the

reference to relatively fine threads while claim 8 has been amended to use the term flexible

which is definite.

Claim 1 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ritchie. Claim 1 has

been amended to recite that the needle and seat are both tapered. Because of the taper and the

long sealing surfaces, flow can be adjusted very finely. On the other hand, Ritchie's device uses

a non-tapered cylindrical needle and seat and adjustment is accomplished by selectively

occluding air passage 316. Given the narrow size of this passage, fine adjustment of flow is

difficult at best. Accordingly, the claim as amended patentably distinguishes over the rejection

and references of record.

Claims 2-9 have been amended to depend from claim 1. In addition to being patentable for the

reasons stated above with respect to claim 1, those claims are also patentable for the limitations

contained therein.

-4-

Appl.No. 10/596,801 Amdt.dated October 16, 2008 Reply to Office action of April 16, 2008

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments